

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A theater complex domain comprising:
2 a projection unit operable to render decompressed digital video content;
3 a security module having a decompression unit operable to receive
4 compressed digital video content and to produce the decompressed digital video content;
5 the compressed digital video content received by the decompression unit
6 comprises unencrypted compressed digital video content, and the decompressed digital video
7 content rendered by the projection unit comprises unencrypted decompressed high bit-rate
8 digital video content; and
9 the security module having a decryption unit for receiving encrypted
10 compressed digital video content and to produce the unencrypted compressed digital video
11 content.

1 2. A theater complex domain as in claim 1,
2 wherein the security module further comprises:
3 a watermark unit coupled to the decompression unit operable to receive the
4 decompressed digital video content produced by the decompression unit and to produce the
5 decompressed digital video content rendered by the projection unit,
6 wherein the decompressed digital video content rendered by the projection
7 unit includes a watermark embedded therein.

1 3. A theater complex domain as in claim 2,
2 wherein the watermark uniquely identifies the projection unit to which the
3 security module is removably coupled.

1 4. A theater complex domain as in claim 1,
2 wherein the security module is physically locked in a tamper resistant
3 container.

1 5. A theater complex domain as in claim 4,
2 wherein the security module is physically locked to the projection unit to
3 which it is removably coupled.

1 6. A theater complex domain as in claim 1,

2 wherein a global positioning circuit is embedded in the security module.

1 7. A theater complex domain as in claim 1, further comprising:

2 a receiver coupled to the security module operable to receive the compressed
3 digital video content from a content source.

1 8. A theater complex domain as in claim 7,

2 wherein the receiver is operable to receive the compressed digital video
3 content from the content source in real-time, and is operable to transmit the compressed
4 digital video content to the security module, such that the projection unit renders digital video
5 content corresponding to the compressed digital video content nearly concurrently with
6 reception by the receiver of the compressed digital video content.

1 9. A theater complex domain as in claim 8, further comprising:

2 a file server coupled to the receiver and the security module, the file server
3 being operable to store the compressed digital video content received from the receiver, and
4 being operable at a later time or times to provide the compressed digital video content to the
5 security module for rendering by the projection unit;

6 wherein the receiver is operable to receive the compressed digital video
7 content from the content source, and is operable to transmit the compressed digital video
8 content to the file server.

1 10. A theater complex domain as in claim 7,

2 wherein the receiver is a satellite receiver.

1 11. A theater complex domain as in claim 7,

2 wherein the receiver is a fiber optic transceiver.

1 12. A theater complex domain as in claim 7,

2 wherein the compressed digital video content is received by the receiver in the
3 form of internet protocol packets.

1 13. A theater complex domain as in claim 12, further comprising:

2 a transmitter coupled to the security module operable to transmit information
3 ultimately to the content source.

1 14. A theater complex domain as in claim 13,

2 wherein the security module is operable to detect unauthorized attempts to
3 tamper with it; and
4 wherein the information transmitted to the content source includes notification
5 of unauthorized attempts to tamper with it.

1 15. A theater complex domain as in claim 14,
2 wherein the security module is operable to periodically report to the content
3 source.

1 16. A theater complex domain as in claim 14,
2 wherein the transmitter and receiver are embedded in a transceiver unit.

1 17. A theater complex domain as in claim 16,
2 wherein the security module and transceiver are coupled together by an
3 internet protocol network.

1 18. A security module for a projection unit, comprising:
2 a decompression unit operable to receive compressed digital video content and
3 to produce decompressed digital video content; and
4 a security container coupled to and enclosing the decompression unit, wherein
5 the security container is physically removably coupled to the projection unit.

1 19. A security module as in claim 18, further comprising:
2 a watermarking unit for producing decompressed digital video content having
3 a watermark embedded therein.

1 20. A security module as in claim 19,
2 wherein the watermark embedded in the decompressed digital video content
3 produced by the watermarking unit uniquely identifies the projection unit to which the
4 security module is removably coupled.

1 21. A security module as in claim 19,
2 wherein the watermark embedded in the decompressed digital video content
3 produced by the watermarking unit uniquely identifies the security module.

1 22. A security module as in claim 18,
2 wherein the compressed digital video content received by the decompression
3 unit comprises unencrypted compressed digital video content, and wherein the decompressed
4 video content produced by the decompression unit comprises unencrypted decompressed
5 video content, the security module further comprising:
6 an encryption unit coupled to the decompression unit operable to receive
7 encrypted compressed digital video content and to produce the unencrypted compressed
8 digital video content.

1 23. A security module as in claim 19, further comprising:
2 a connection path for the security module to communicate to a content source.

1 24. A security module as in claim 23, wherein the security module is
2 operable to periodically report information to the content source.

1 25. A method of displaying digital video content, the method comprising
2 the steps of:
3 receiving compressed digital video content from a content source;
4 transmitting the compressed digital video content to a security module
5 removably coupled to a projection unit;
6 decompressing the compressed digital content within the security module so as
7 to produce decompressed digital video content; and
8 rendering the decompressed digital video content by the projection unit.

1 26. A method of displaying digital video content as in claim 25,
2 wherein compressed digital video content from the content source comprises
3 encrypted compressed digital video content, wherein the compressed digital video content
4 decompressed within the security module comprises unencrypted compressed digital video
5 content, the method further comprising the steps of:
6 decrypting the encrypted compressed digital video content so as to produce the
7 unencrypted compressed digital video content.

1 27. A method as in claim 25, further comprising the step of:
2 after the transmitting and prior to the rendering step, watermarking within the
3 security module the digital video content with an embedded watermark.

1 28. A method as in claim 27,
2 wherein the embedded watermark comprises a unique identifier of the
3 projection unit to which the security module is removably coupled.

1 29. A method as in claim 27,
2 wherein the embedded watermark comprises a unique identifier of the security
3 module.

1 30. A method as in claim 25,
2 wherein the receiving of the digital video content from the content source
3 occurs in real-time nearly concurrently with the rendering of the decompressed digital video
4 content by the projection system.

1 31. A method as in claim 25, further comprising the step of:
2 after the receiving step and prior to the transmitting step,
3 storing in a file server the compressed digital video content.

1 32. A method as in claim 25, further comprising the step of:
2 wherein the step of receiving the compressed digital video content is
3 performed by receiving internet protocol packets containing the compressed digital video
4 content.

1 33. The theater complex domain as in claim 2 wherein the watermark unit
2 is coupled before or after the decompression unit.

1 34. The security module of claim 18 further comprising
2 a decryption unit for receiving encrypted compressed digital video content and
3 to produce the unencrypted compressed digital video content.

1 35. A method for secure delivery and playback of content between a studio
2 computing system and theater computing system, the method comprising:

3 encrypting the content at the studio computing system;
4 forwarding the encrypted content from the studio computing system to a
5 theater computing system;
6 storing by the theater computing system, the encrypted content in memory;
7 playback of the encrypted content from the theater computing system to a
8 projection unit; and

9 decryption of the encrypted content at a secure module located within a
10 projection unit such that the act of decrypting is controlled at the studio computing system
11 and the act of play back is controlled by the theater computing system.

1 36. The method of claim 35 further comprising decompression, key
2 management, and watermarking by the secure module,
3 wherein the secure module is a single replaceable unit.